



NIGHT TRAIN. French Prime Minister Jean Castex (center) walks at the Nice-Ville station, south of France, on May 21, 2021, during the inauguration and the return to service of the Paris-Nice night train, stopped in December 2017. **AFP**

Market ends flat; Converge, Century Pacific top gainers

THE stock market closed flat Friday in another dull trading as many investors stayed on the sidelines while keeping tab on the pace of the country's vaccine rollout.

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index added 1.61 points to 6,199.25 on a value turnover of P5 billion. Gainers beat losers, 103 to 95, with 47 issues unchanged.

Canned goods manufacturer Century Pacific Food Inc. advanced 4.1 percent to P23.95, while Converge Information and Communications Technology Solutions Inc., a fiber internet service provider, rose 2.2 percent to P20.40.

Conglomerate Ayala Corp. fell 1.6 percent to P700, while casino operator Bloomberry Resorts Corp. declined 2.7 percent to P6.12

The rest of Asian markets fluctuated Friday as investors battled to track a rally on Wall Street that came in response to another positive read on US jobless claims, while

sentiment continues to be driven by inflation fears and optimism over the economic recovery.

The week was set to end on a mixed note despite data showing the number of people applying for US unemployment benefits fell for a third straight week to a new pandemic-era low, reinforcing expectations the recovery was well on track, helped by huge government and central bank support.

All three main indexes on Wall Street rallied, with investors for now putting aside their concerns that the expected surge in activity fueled by re-openings and vaccines will cause prices to rocket and force the Federal Reserve to wind back its ultra-loose monetary policies.

And markets have seemingly already come to accept that some members of the Fed are keen to start talking about the possibility of such moves as the economy improves, taking that as an indication that the outlook is bright.

"While inflation has been the star of the show, keep in mind that the Fed's mandate is twofold, with employment as the other side,"

said Mike Loewengart of E*Trade Financial. "The jobless claims read shows once again that we're heading in the right direction, but we're a ways away from where we were pre-pandemic."

Tokyo, Sydney, Singapore, Wellington, Taipei, Mumbai and Bangkok all rose, while Hong Kong was flat but there were losses in Seoul, Shanghai and Jakarta.

"Inflationists like myself will have to beat an orderly retreat for now, and with inflation fears ebbing, equity markets may resume rallying," said OANDA's Jeffrey Halley.

"I, for one, won't miss the day-to-day, herd-like, mindless tail-chasing we have seen in equity markets and others over the past fortnight."

Investors are also keeping their eyes on spiking virus infections in several countries that are forcing some governments to impose fresh, economically damaging containment measures.

Oil prices edged up but struggled to rebound from recent selling pressure that has come on the back of signs that the Iran nuclear deal could be back on. **With AFP**

Staycation cruises set sail from UK, 1st in over a year

By Charlotte Durand

SOUTHAMPTON, United Kingdom—"I have tears in my eyes," cruising enthusiast Maggie Bill said Thursday as she boarded the MSC Virtuosa in Southampton for the first cruise sailing from a British port in over a year.

"It's about the first step, the first stage, out of an awful period of time, really starting to socialize and feel that we belong to the world," the 66-year-old told AFP, champagne glass in hand.

However, there is little exotic about the four-night cruise, which is restricted to touring Britain's coastline, making a single stop at the island of Portland in southwest England.

It is the first in a series of so-called staycation sailings planned for this summer, as the coronavirus pandemic continues to keep much of the world beyond British tourists' reach.

Once aboard the Virtuosa—Europe's third largest cruise ship, at 331 meters long and 19 decks high—UK residents can still enjoy some of the typical highlights of a holiday at sea like pools, water slides, sports classes, sunbathing decks and bowling.

Britain, among the countries worst-hit in Europe by COVID-19, entered the latest phase in its lockdown easing this week, allowing some international travel to restart and cruises to resume within UK waters with up to 1,000 people.

'Happy vibe'

Before the first passengers boarded the Virtuosa, which can hold more than 6,200 people, the crew was busy making final preparations, frantically cleaning tables and decks.

All those coming aboard undergo COVID-19 testing, and are then given a bracelet that serves as a key to their room as well as a tracking system if coronavirus cases are reported on the ship.

Unlike some other operators, MSC Cruises does not require passengers to be vaccinated, but masks, social distancing and regular hand washing are mandatory.

"I wouldn't let that detract from the experience because we are happy we're here, we're celebrating and, yeah, it's great to have cruising back!" said Lindsay Garvey-Jones, celebrating her 59th birthday on Sunday. **AFP**



Passengers stand in the atrium as they board the MSC Virtuosa cruise ship as it prepares to set sail following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Southampton, southwest England on May 20, 2021. **AFP**

British retail sales rose 92% in April as stores reopened

LONDON—British retail sales surged last month as non-essential stores reopened from virus lockdown, sparking a boom in clothing demand, data showed Friday.

Sales by volume soared 9.2 percent in April from March as Britain's economy cranked back into action.

"Retail sales volumes grew sharply... reflecting the effect of the easing of coronavirus restrictions," the Office for National Statistics said in a statement.

Demand for clothing rocketed by almost 70 percent, aided by good weather as consumers splashed their cash on new outfits after one year of lockdowns.

Easing travel restrictions prompted a similar spike in demand for motor fuel.

"Pent-up demand built up during lockdown continues to be released as the reopening of non-essential retail offered the public a welcomed opportunity to visit many of their favorite shop," said Helen Dickinson, head of the British Retail Consortium.

"Improved weather during April meant greater sales of fashion, particularly in outerwear and knitwear, as the public renewed their wardrobe and made plans to meet friends and family outdoors."

Overall sales rocketed 42.4 percent compared with April last year, which was the first full month of the initial UK lockdown at the start of the crisis.

Online sales boomed during lockdowns as consumers were forced to shop via their smartphones and computer screens, soaring by 56 percent compared to April 2019 before the pandemic struck.

Britain is exiting lockdowns at a gradual pace, allowing the economy to further recover from pandemic fallout.

At the same time, analysts are fearful that reopening economies will spark a global inflationary spike.

British inflation soared last month to 1.5 percent, the highest level since the early stages of the pandemic, separate data showed earlier this week. **AFP**

PBCOM
PHILIPPINE BANK OF COMMUNICATIONS

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NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the **PHILIPPINE BANK OF COMMUNICATIONS** ("PBCOM") will be held on Tuesday, 15 June 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be conducted virtually and can be accessed at the link provided in the Bank's website at <https://www.pbc.com.ph>.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice and Quorum
3. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 14 July 2020
4. Annual Report of Management and Approval of the Audited Financial Statements for 2020
5. Ratification of Acts of the Board of Directors and Management since the Last Annual Meeting of Stockholders
6. Amendment of the By-Laws to include BSP-prescribed board level committees
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditors
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

For purposes of the meeting, only stockholders of record as of **May 14, 2021** are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

In light of the community quarantine measures still in place, PBCOM will be holding a virtual Annual Meeting. The conduct of the Annual Meeting will be streamed live, and stockholders may attend, participate and vote only through proxy, remote communication or in absentia. The requirement and procedures for voting in absentia and participation through remote communication are set forth in the Information Statement.

Stockholders who choose to vote by proxy must submit and address their signed proxy to the attention of the Corporate Secretary at 5/F PBCOM Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino Street, Makati City or via e-mail at CorporateSecretary@pbc.com.ph not later than 5:00 p.m. on or before 07 June 2021.

In compliance with SEC Resolution No. 196, Series of 2015, a copy of the Unaudited Interim Financial Statements of PBCOM with Management Discussion and Analysis for the period ended 31 March 2021 shall be posted in PBCOM's website at <https://www.pbc.com.ph> on or before 07 June 2021. A hard copy of the said interim financial statements shall be provided within a reasonable time upon request by any stockholder.

Copies of the following documents will be available upon request: (i) Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on 14 July 2020; (ii) Information Statement; (iii) Management Report; (iv) Audited Financial Statements for the year 2020.

PBCOM IS NOT SOLICITING PROXIES.

MICHAEL STEPHEN H. LAO
Corporate Secretary

(MS-MAY 21, 22, 2021)

ATLAS Mining

NOTICE OF THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corporation (AT or the Corporation) will conduct its Annual General Meeting of Shareholders for 2021 ("AGM" or the "Meeting") virtually on 14 June 2021 at 10:00 a.m., with the proceedings livestreamed and voting conducted in absentia through the Corporation's secure online voting facility, for the purpose of considering and acting on the following matters on the Agenda:

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Service of Notice of Meeting & Quorum
3. Approval of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders (AGM) held on 24 August 2020
4. Approval of the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2020
5. Amendment to AT's By-Laws: Articles I, II, III, V, VI & XV
6. Election of Directors (including Independent Directors) for 2021-2022
7. Ratification of acts and proceedings of the Board of Directors, Board Committees and Management
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Open Forum
11. Adjournment

Enclosed is a copy of the Rationale/Explanation for the above Agenda Items for reference.

Only Shareholders of record as of 20 April 2021 are entitled to receive notice of, participate and to vote at the Meeting or any adjournment thereof. The Shareholders' list will be available for inspection at the Corporation's principal office located at 5F FiveCom Center, Palm Coast Avenue corner Pacific Drive, Mail of Asia Complex, Pasay City 1300 (the "Office"). The Stock and Transfer Book of the Corporation will be closed on 20 April 2021.

Shareholders intending to participate in the Meeting via remote communication and to exercise their vote in absentia should register through the Company's online registration system at asmregister.atlasmining.com.ph until 4 June 2021.

Successfully registered Shareholders may cast their votes in absentia through the Company's secure online voting system (asmregister.atlasmining.com.ph), and shall be provided access to the live streaming of the Meeting. The "Guidelines for Participating via Remote Communication and Voting in Absentia" is enclosed to the Information Statement (IS) and posted on the PSE EDGE and the Company's website, <https://www.atlasmining.com.ph/investor-relations/annual-stock-holders-meeting>.

Any Shareholder who wish to appoint a proxy may accomplish the proxy form (which need not be notarized) and submit the same at the Office not later than 4 June 2021. Validation of proxies and ballots is set on 5 June 2021. We are not soliciting your proxy.

Shareholders are encouraged to submit relevant comments and questions on the Agenda items by email bearing the subject "AGM 2021 Open Forum" to Agm@atlasmining.com.ph on or before 12 June 2021 to be considered during the open forum.

The Information Statement in SEC Form 20-1S, Proxy Form, Annual Report for fiscal year 2020 in SEC Form 17-A and the Quarterly Report for the first quarter of 2021 in SEC Form 17-Q are posted on the PSE EDGE and on the Company's website at <https://www.atlasmining.com.ph/investor-relations/annual-stock-holders-meeting> where you may also find the complete information on the AGM.

Pasay City, Metro Manila, 10 May 2021.

Thank you.

Maria Eleonor A. Santiago
Assistant Corporate Secretary

RATIONALE/EXPLANATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

Certification of Service of Notice & Agenda of Meeting and Quorum

The Notice and Agenda of the AGM and the Information Statement (IS) are posted on the PSE EDGE and on the Corporation's website, <https://www.atlasmining.com.ph/investor-relations/annual-stock-holders-meeting>. The Notice, Agenda & Rationale shall be published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in both print and online formats. The Corporate Secretary shall certify that due notice of the AGM was made and the existence of a quorum. Shareholders present and/or who voted by proxy or in absentia, representing a majority of the outstanding capital stock shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Approval of the Minutes of the AGM on 24 August 2020

The Minutes of the AGM held on 24 August 2020 are appended to the IS and are posted on the Corporation's website, <https://www.atlasmining.com.ph/investor-relations/annual-stock-holders-meeting>. A resolution approving the minutes will be presented to the Shareholders for approval which shall constitute approval of the accuracy & faithfulness of the minutes to what transpired during the said meeting.

Approval of the 2020 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements:

The Corporation's financial and operating results for the year 2020 and the Audited Financial Statements (AFS) as of 31 December 2020 are provided in the Annual Report. The AFS audited by Sycip Gorres Velayo & Company (SGV) have been reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee (AuditCom) and the Board of Directors (BOD). The Management's Report and AFS for 2020 are also contained in the IS available on the Corporation's website, <https://www.atlasmining.com.ph/investor-relations/annual-stock-holders-meeting>. After the presentation of the Annual Report, a resolution noting and approving the Annual Report and AFS will be presented to the Shareholders for approval which shall constitute a ratification of the Company's performance in 2020.

Approval of the Amendment to AT's By-Laws:

To conform the By-Laws of AT to the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines (RCCP), various SEC memos, Code of Corporate Governance (CCG) and AT's current operations and structure as well as to authorize certain standards, procedures and rules the Corporation shall follow for efficient operation, the resolution amending Articles I, II, III, V, VI, and XV of AT's By-Laws will be presented to the Shareholders for their approval. Details of the amendments are provided in the IS.

Election of Directors (including Independent Directors):

The nominated directors were determined to be qualified and competent for election as directors for 2021-2022 by the Corporate Governance Committee (CGC) after their qualifications were duly reviewed. The list of nominees and their profiles are provided in the IS and posted in the Corporation website, <https://www.atlasmining.com.ph/investor-relations/annual-stock-holders-meeting>. Their proven competencies, expertise and qualifications based on current standards, will be invaluable for the Company's performance. The CGC recommends their election.

Ratification of acts and proceedings of the Board of Directors (BOD) and Management for 2020

All acts, resolutions and proceedings of the BOD, the BOD Committees and the Management of AT from the date of the last AGM to the date of this Meeting, including all significant related party transactions if any, will be presented to the Shareholders for ratification. A resolution noting, approving and ratifying all acts, resolutions and proceedings of Management, BOD Committees and the BOD will be presented to the Shareholders for approval.

Appointment of SGV as External Auditor

The BOD, upon recommendation of the Audit Committee (AuditCom), endorses the appointment of SGV as the Corporation's external auditor for 2021. The profile of the external auditor is provided in the IS. The Shareholders are also requested to delegate to the BOD the authority to approve the appropriate audit fee for 2021. A resolution for the appointment of external auditor will be presented to the Shareholders for adoption.

Other Matters

Other business as may properly come before the meeting may be raised. The Chairman will decide whether such business may be properly taken up in the meeting or in another Shareholders' meeting or other proper forum.

Open Forum

Only relevant comments and questions on the Agenda items which are submitted by email to Agm@atlasmining.com.ph on or before 10 June 2021 will be considered during the open forum as time will allow. Questions and comments received but not read during the Open Forum due to time constraints will be addressed separately.

(MS-MAY 22 & 24, 2021)

JACKSTONES, INC.

593 Antonio Drive, Bagumbayan, Taguig City 1630

NOTICE OF 2021 ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of **JACKSTONES, INC.** will be held on **14 June 2021 at 9:00 A.M.** through remote communication to discuss the following agenda:

1. Call to Order;
2. Determination of Existence of Quorum;
3. Approval of Minutes of the Calendar Year ("CY") 2020 Annual Stockholders' Meeting;
4. Report of the President;
5. Approval of Audited Financial Statements for CY 2020;
6. Ratification of All Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and Management Adopted from 7 August 2020 to 14 June 2021;
7. Election of Directors (including the Independent Directors);
8. Appointment of External Auditor;
9. Amendment of the By-Laws of the Corporation;
10. Consideration of Such Other Business as May Properly Come Before the Meeting; and
11. Adjournment;

A brief explanation of each agenda item, the detailed Definitive Information Statement for CY2020, the procedures for the registration for the Annual Stockholders' Meeting and the voting in absentia, and the procedure for attendance by proxy can be accessed in Jackstones, Inc.'s website at <https://jackstonesinc.com/index.php/notice-of-annual-and-special-stockholders-meetings/>, or in the Philippine Stock Exchange Electronic Disclosure Generation Technology at https://edge.pse.com.ph/companyDisclosures/form.do?cmpr_id=134

The Organizational Meeting of the Board of Directors will follow soon after the Annual Stockholders' Meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors,

(sgd)
JUAN MIGUEL VICTOR C. DE LA FUENTE
Corporate Secretary

(MS-MAY 22 & 24, 2021)